

WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes January 20, 2015

Members present: Linda Hanson, Robert Kennedy, Connie Melo, Ellen Phillips, Donna Sterling, and Philip Walker
Members Absent: Ray Guenter, Ruth Kurien
Council Liaison: Shari Cantor
Staff present: Susan Huleatt, Gina Marino
Volunteer Secretary: Amy Lynn Silverman

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:35AM.

The Minutes of December 16 were approved unanimously as corrected.

Chairman's Report

Philip Walker announced that the Town has invited members of all commissions to a meeting to review the requirements for conducting meetings, minutes, agendas, quorum, etc. Donna Sterling and Amy Silverman will attend. The Annual Report of the Commission was submitted to Essie Labrot, Town Clerk. Phil mentioned a LGBT program run by Avon and Simsbury which he was unable to attend. He asked if the Commission should be addressing issues concerning LGBT seniors and the sense of the meeting was that we should look into this. Susan Huleatt mentioned that a brochure pertinent to this subject is available. She will ask a woman who is starting up a nonprofit eldercare agency for LGBT individuals to come to a Commission meeting. Phil passed on information on the status of the Senior Job Bank received from Jim Doran, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Senior Job Bank finished 2014 with receipts of \$42,000 and expenses of \$37,000. The budget for 2015 calls for revenues of \$60,000 and expenses of \$44,000. There was one family foundation grant received this month and two more applications will be filed. There are over 500 services providers at year end. The goal of responding to over 1000 requests was achieved.

Home Care and Planning

Commission member Ellen Phillips gave a detailed presentation. She emphasized that most people do not consider the need to plan until the last minute. There are many services available at home. The team includes the physician, pharmacist, nurse, homemaker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, health aide, social worker, nutritionist, meals on wheels, and, of course, the clients who may refuse services and change providers. The "Oasis" form stipulates services and fees and is reviewed every 90 days. An agency may be Medicare or Medicaid certified or non-certified. There is a HomeCare Compare site at Medicare.gov. The client always has the right to appeal: to the agency, to Medicare, to the state, to private pay plans. The amount of paperwork required does cut down on personal time. It is important for a client to have someone to help figure out what would work best.

Transportation

No report

Town Council

Shari Cantor reported that the "Complete Streets" draft is due in February. The Town Council has approved development in a Bishops Corner older apartment unit for condos. Budget work is beginning with all departments being reviewed. There is no information from the state yet. The town's AAA bond rating was renewed and new bonds will be available by Jan. 29. While the state controls the UConn campus property, the town has requested a detailed review. When the

state declares the property as surplus, the town will have 90 days to put in an offer and will have a second shot if there is another bid.

West Hartford participated with New Haven and Stamford and 39 other towns in an RFQ for ultra high-speed broadband service that could increase service and decrease costs.

The new hotel at Blue Back Square is scheduled for a March start with a 12-15 month completion goal. An application is coming for the St. Joseph Convent property.

Mayor Scott Slifka will deliver a State of the Town report on Jan. 29.

Human Services

Susan Huleatt reported the Benefits Sheet has been updated. Some criteria have changed. She spoke about calls to the office: 45% are for age 60+ and include issues such as housing (eviction, condemnation of property); scam; half include financial needs, especially energy assistance, transportation, care giving issues, and requests for assessments for services. Linda Hanson and Susan will work together on where and how the Benefits Sheet should be displayed/distributed. Susan also noted that there are new email addresses for all town employees: name@westhartfordct.gov.

Senior Center Reports

The reports are attached.

New Business

None

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 17, 2015, at 10:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Lynn Silverman
Volunteer Secretary